

REMARKS

The Examiner's comments together with the cited references have been carefully studied. Favorable reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application. Claims 1-10 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-5 of copending Application No. 10/719,578. Claims 1-10 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-15 of copending Application No. 10/719,444. Claims 1 and 6 are objected to because of informalities. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) in view of Vackier et al. (US 4,281,805). Claim 2-10 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Vackier et al. (US 4,281,805) in view of Akao et al., (US 4,989,802).

A terminal disclaimer has been filed herewith to address the double patenting rejections. Claims 1 and 6 have been amended to address the objections. The following remarks address the 35 USC 103(a) rejection of claims 1 to 10.

It is the Applicants position that the rejection misinterprets Vackier et al (US 4,281,805). The rejection begins with the following false statement:

"With respect to claim 1, Vackier '805 shows a generally cylindrical single support structure (12) having an outer web wrapping surface for receiving at least one convolution of a web (13), the outer web wrapping surface and first contact surface of said at least one convolution produce a static coefficient of friction x_1 , and wherein said first contact surface and said at least a partial second convolution of said web produces a static coefficient of friction x_2 , wherein x_1 is less than x_2 , see column 1, lines 10-60, and column 2, lines 15-25."

It is the Applicants position that this statement is false due to an incorrect citing of the structure of Vackier. Vackier describes a device that eliminates the need for web cinching (x_1 greater than x_2) by introducing another

part that Vackier describes as a "flexible means" to create a "nip" between the flexible means and the core by which the leading edge of the web passes (i.e., see Vackier column 1, lines 39-42). Vackier further describes the frictional characteristics between the core and web, and the web and the flexible means such that the need for web cinching is eliminated (i.e., see Vackier column 1 lines 55-62).


Vackier further describes this flexible means as being constructed of a chain or ribbon embracing the core (column 1 lines 30-62) with said flexible means comprising a friction reducing layer (between flexible means and web) composed of say Teflon (i.e., see column 1 line 62 thru column 2 line 3). Vackier further states that this flexible means may be replaced by a series of rollers (i.e., see column 2 lines 5-6) further eliminating the need for web cinching by replacing the sliding friction (i.e., x_2 greater than x_1) with a set of rollers (i.e., Vackier column 2 lines 3-7).

As a result of the foregoing the Applicant believes that claim 1 is allowable. In addition, the Applicant contends that claims 2 - 10 are allowable based on their dependence on an allowable base claim.

It is believed that these changes now make the claims clear and definite and, if there are any problems with these changes, Applicants' attorney would appreciate a telephone call.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed none of the references, taken singly or in combination, disclose the claimed invention. Accordingly, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance, the notice of which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.